Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 3 and 10, and amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 16-18, as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that are not being currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner system, comprising:

an upstanding, elongated housing having at least one vent and an opening in a top surface of said housing; ~~and~~

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, including:

a first electrode;

a second electrode; and

a high voltage generator to provide a potential difference between said first and second electrodes; and

a user-liftable handle connected to said second electrode;

~~wherein said first and second electrodes are removable, through an upper portion of said housing, from a resting position within said housing to a location external to said housing, to thereby allow said electrodes to be cleaned; and~~

~~wherein said first and second electrodes are returnable through said upper portion of said housing such that gravity will assist with return of said electrodes to the resting position within said housing~~

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said second electrode is removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing to thereby allow an exposed surface of said second electrode to be cleaned, and is returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one vent includes an inlet vent and an outlet vent; and wherein said first electrode is located proximate to said inlet, and said second electrode is located closer to said outlet than said first electrode, when said electrodes are ~~in the resting position~~ within said housing.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said opening ~~is through a~~ in said top surface of said housing and an outer periphery of said user-liftable handle generally have a same shape.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said first and second electrodes are elongated along a direction of said elongated housing.

6. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner system, comprising:

an upstanding, elongated housing having an air inlet vent, and an air outlet vent and an opening in a top surface of said housing;

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, said ion generating unit including an electrode assembly; and

a user-liftable handle secured to said electrode assembly~~, said handle accessible through an opening in an upper portion of said housing, to assist a user with lifting said electrode assembly out of said housing from a resting position within said housing; and~~

~~wherein said electrode assembly is returnable through said opening in said upper portion of said housing such that gravity will assist with return of said electrode assembly to the resting position within said housing~~

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said electrode assembly is removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing to thereby allow said electrode assembly to be cleaned, and is returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the electrode assembly includes at least one emitter electrode and at least one collector electrode.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said ion generating unit further comprises a high voltage generator to provide a potential difference between said at least one emitter electrode and said at least one collector electrode when said electrode assembly is at the resting position within said housing.

9. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner system, comprising:

a housing having at least one vent and an opening in a top surface of said housing; ~~and~~

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, including:

an emitter electrode array;

a collector electrode array; and

a high voltage generator to provide a potential difference between said emitter electrode array and said collector electrode array; and

a user-liftable handle connected to said collector electrode array;

~~wherein at least one of said emitter and collector electrode arrays are removable, through an upper portion of said housing, from a resting position within said housing to a location external to the housing, to thereby allow for cleaning; and~~

~~wherein said removable at least one of said emitter and collector electrode arrays are returnable through the upper portion of the housing such that gravity will assist with return to the resting position within said housing~~

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said collector electrode array is removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing, and is returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein said opening in said ~~upper portion of said housing is through a~~ top surface of said housing and an outer periphery of said user-liftable handle generally have a same shape.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein:

said emitter electrode array includes at least one emitter electrode; and

said collector electrode array includes at least two collector electrodes.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein:

said emitter electrode array includes at least one emitter electrode; and

said collector electrode array includes at least two collector electrodes that in cross-section define an "L"-shape having a curved nose region, said "L"-shaped electrodes being disposed such that said curved nose regions face said at least one emitter electrode.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said house is vertically elongated.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the collector electrode array includes at least one vertically elongated collector electrode.

16. (Currently Amended) An air conditioning system, comprising:

an upstanding, vertically elongated housing having a vertical channel and at least one air vent allowing air to enter said vertical channel and an opening in a top surface of said housing;

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, including an electrode assembly to rest within said vertical channel; and

a handle secured to at least a portion of said electrode assembly to assist a user with lifting said at least a portion of said electrode assembly vertically out of said vertical channel;

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said at least a portion of said electrode assembly that's connected to said handle is removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing, and is returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.

17. (Currently Amended) An air conditioning system, comprising:

an upstanding, vertically elongated housing having at least one air vent and an opening in a top surface of said housing;

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, including:

at least one emitter electrode;

at least one collector electrode, elongated along a direction of elongation of said vertically elongated housing; and

a handle connected to at least one of said emitter and collector electrodes;

~~wherein at least one of said emitter and collector electrodes is vertically removable through an opening through a top portion of said housing such that a user can vertically lift said at least one of said emitter and collector electrodes out of said housing from a resting position within said housing; and~~

~~wherein said removable at least one of said emitter and collector electrodes is vertically returnable through said opening such that gravity will assist with return to the resting position within said housing~~

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said at least one of said emitter and collector electrodes that's connected to said handle is removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing, and is returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.

18. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner system, comprising:

a housing having at least one vent and an opening in a top surface of said housing; and

an ion generating unit positioned in said housing, including:

a first electrode;

a second electrode; and

a high voltage generator to provide a potential difference between said first and second electrodes; and

a handle connected to said emitter and collector electrodes;

~~wherein said first and second electrodes are removable, through an upper portion of said housing, from a resting position within said housing to a location external to said housing, to thereby allow said electrodes to be cleaned; and~~

~~wherein said first and second electrodes are returnable through said upper portion of said housing such that gravity will assist with return of said electrodes to the resting position within said housing~~

wherein said handle is accessible to a user from outside said housing without requiring the user touch any portion of the air conditioner system other than said handle; and

wherein said emitter and collector electrodes are removable from said housing, using said handle, through said opening in said top surface of said housing, and are returnable to the housing through said opening in said top surface of the housing.